

6. (Amended) The filter cartridge of anyone of claims]2 to 5] 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the ratio of depth filter segment thickness to spacer thickness is from about 1.1:1 to about 5:1.

7. (Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 6 wherein the ratio of depth filter segment thickness to spacer thickness is from about 1.5 to about 3:1.

8. (Amended) The filter cartridge of any one of Claims [1-7] 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the housing [(12)] is free of an open void volume downstream of said depth filter [(28)].

9. (Amended) The filter cartridge of any one of Claims [1-7] 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the depth filter [(28)] inserted into the housing [(12)] is precompressed into its final length.

10. (Amended) The filter cartridge of any one of Claims [1-7] 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein further comprising end caps [(14, 16; 50, 51; 70; 90)] secured to the ends of the housing [(12; 73; 93)] by a mechanical device.

11. (Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 10 wherein the inner walls of the housing [(12; 73)] adjacent the ends of the housing [(12; 73)] have one or more slots formed therein, the end caps [(14, 16; 50, 51; 70)] contain one or more C-rings [(52; 74)] and the C-rings [(52; 74)] secure the end caps [(14, 16; 50, 51; 70)] to the housing [(12; 73)] by fitting at least partially into the one or more slots of the housing [(14, 16; 50, 51; 70)].

12. (Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 10 wherein the outer walls of the housing [(93)] adjacent the ends of the housing [(93)] have a flange [(94)] formed thereon and the end caps [(90)] are secured to the flange [(94)] by a C-ring [(95)].

13. (Amended) The filter cartridge of any one of (claim) claims 11 or 12 wherein the end caps (70; 90) are formed of two or more pieces known as the inner end cap piece [(71; 91; 102; 112)] and outer end cap piece [(72; 92; 104;

110)) and at least the inner end cap piece [(171; 91; 102; 112)] is secured by said to said housing.

14. (Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 13 wherein the outer end cap piece [(72; 92; 104; 110)] is secured to the inner cap piece [(71; 91; 102; 112)].

15. (Amended) The filter cartridge of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 [the preceding claims] wherein the media has a surface treatment selected from the group consisting of hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity or a positive or negative charge.

16. (Amended) A process for filtering a slurry which comprises
passing a slurry through a filter cartridge as defined in any one of
Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12 or 13 [1 to 15], and
recovering a filtered slurry from said cartridge.

17. The process of Claim 16 wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a silica-based slurry, and alumina-based slurry, a ceria-based slurry, a diamond-based slurry, a MnO₂-based slurry

REMARKS

Claims 8-18 have been objected to as being multiple dependent claims dependent on multiple dependent claims. The claims have been amended to remove the proper depending. Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 have been rejected to for use of the word "preferably". These claims have been amended to remove "preferably". Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 (b) over Ellefson et al.

Applicant's provide a filtration cartridge having a filter for filtering a slurry in a manner such that desired sized particles are not separated from the liquid component of the slurry. Applicants have found that it is essential that the housing containing the filter be free of a void volume upstream of the filter in